(c)The Government of India extends financial assistance for a number of Development and Welfare Schemes to handloom weavers through State Governments. These schemes include Project Package, Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing, Workshed-cum-Housing, Thrift Fund, Health Package, Group Insurance, New Insurance, Market Development Assistance etc.

New Quota Policy for Textiles

2295.SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many exporters are showing grievance against the new policy announced recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken to rectify the snags in the policy;

(c) what advantages it would give to textile exports from the country; and

(d) whether Government are taking steps to amend the policy and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The Government had setup a Task Force to make recommendations on the long term quota (export entitlement) distribution policies for a period of five years with effect from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2004. The Task Force invited responses from Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), leading trade associations and federations on various aspects of the quota policies. The Task Force also conducted two Open House Sessions to interact with various exporters and the associations concerned at New Delhi and Mumbai. Thus it may be seen that the Task Force considered the inputs from a wide range of sources before submitting the report. This report was taken into account while framing the New Quota Policy.

Suggestions received from various associations of textile/garment exporters from time to time are duly considered and appropriate changes are made, whenever deemed necessary, to facilitate the smooth operation of the Quota System.

The Policy is expected to

(i) result in better utilisation of quotas and thus better realisation of foreign exchange;

(ii) encourage new investment in garments sector leading to greater employment generation;

(iii) encourage exports of high value garments and quality products; and

(iv) facilitate proper production planning and execution of export orders.

Sericulture Development Project in Assam

2296.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4733, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1998 and state:

(a)the status of the Assam Sericulture Development Project to be implemented through OECF loan assistance;

(b)the time taken by Government to examine and forward the recasted proposal of Assam Government;

(c)whether OECF has been approached by Government of India to obtain the land;

(d) if so, date of approach, response received so far and the likely time of its sanction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The Government of Assam has been requested to update and revise its project proposal for development of sericulture with OECF loan assistance since the project is based on 1994 data. The revised proposal has not been received from the Government of Assam.

In view of the above position, any further action can be taken only after the updated report is received from the Government of Assam.

Privatisation of Jute Corporation of India

2297. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has proposed to privatise its market operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No sir. (b) Does not arise.

Private Sector Participation in Reviving NTC Mills

2298. SHRI ABANI ROY Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item, captioned Rs. 3000 crore revival plan soon for sick NTC units, appearing in the Statesman dated 19th November, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of NTC mills identified for revival and likely expenditure on each of the sick mills;

(c) the source through which Government got funds for revival of the mills; and

(d) whether Government propose to invite private participation for revival of these units; if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government is aware of the news appearing in Newspapers from time to time.

(b) and (c) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the Revival Plan.

(d) Government has no objection to private participation in revival of NTC mills provided the interest of the workers be safeguarded and subject to the approval of BIFR.